

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-17 are pending and stand rejected.

Claims 18-20 are indicated to be allowed. Claims 5-6, 11, 12, and 15-17 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 14 and 17 have been amended. Claims 3, 6, 8-13, and 16 have been cancelled.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-6, 11, 12, and 15-17. In reviewing the subject matter in the aforementioned claims and the references cited in the Office Action, applicant has elected to amend claim 1 to include some of the subject matter recited in claim 15, which includes subject matter not disclosed in the cited references.

Claim 1, as amended, recites details of the tree structure and the allocation process utilizing the tree structure that is described in the written description and not disclosed in the prior art.

For the amendment made to claim 1, applicant submits that all the claims are in allowable form.

With regard to the allowance of claims 18-20, if the Examiner is correct in indicating the allowance of subject matter in claims 18-20 and with the amendments made to claim 1, applicant believes that all the remaining claims are in allowable form.

With regard to the rejection of claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Lee in view of Iwasaki, applicant respectfully disagrees and explicitly traverses the rejection of the claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter recited in claim 15, which was rejected as being dependent from a rejected base claim. Accordingly, Claim 1 is in a

Amendment
Serial No. 10/657,368

5000-1-466

form believed to be consistent with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and, hence, includes subject matter not disclosed in the cited references.

Accordingly, for the amendments made to claim 1, applicant submits that the reason for the rejection is no longer relevant and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

With regard to the remaining claims, these claims depend from claim 1 and are also allowable by virtue of their dependency upon an allowable base claim, without arguing the merits of each individual claim.


With regard to the rejection of claims 8-10 and 13-14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee and Iwasaki and further in view of Hvostov, applicant notes claims 8-10 and 13 have been cancelled and, thus, the rejection of these claims is no longer relevant.

With regard to the rejection of claim 14, this claim depends from claim 1, and is also allowable by virtue of its dependency upon an allowable base claim.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references and respectfully requests that all the rejections be withdrawn. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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